

Residential Parking Zone Policy Review
April 28 - Institution Sounding Board Meeting #1 Notes
May 16, 2008

Meeting objectives:

1) Obtain input regarding key issues and conflicts in the current program; 2) Generate ideas for new approaches and solutions.

Meeting Kickoff

After introductions Wayne Wentz, SDOT City Traffic Engineer kicked off the meeting by giving an overview of the RPZ Policy Review project. Key points he raised include the following:

- The RPZ Policy Review Project is reviewing the program to recommend changes to current policy, program and business processes, not here to recommend doing away with the program.
- SDOT's task is to look at the policy goals, practices and other issues with the RPZ program and answer how the RPZ program can be used to continue to help sustain livable neighborhoods and support the city's transportation goals in the Comprehensive Plan as well as the city's Race and Social Justice and Climate initiatives.
- SDOT's deliverables are new legislation to the Mayor's office that will describe new program changes covering the policy that guides the program, how permits are distributed, and how new RPZs are established. Draft recommendations in June and final recommendations in July are recommended.
- The sounding board's role is to comment on how it is working/not working. Think of the sounding board in terms of a focus group. The sounding board is important to the process because the issues associated with the RPZ are complex and SDOT needs the board's assistance to understand the workings of the program.

Meeting Comments and Questions

There was a wide-ranging discussion, with comments to the group and questions to city staff for the two hour-long meeting.

What are the challenges/issues facing the program?

- Cherry Hill neighborhood needs help with making changes to the RPZ.
- Difficult to enforce what is already there.
- Zone 6 (University Park) has paid person monitoring RPZ. The University of Washington pays for this as part of its Master Use Plan.
- Virginia Mason in Zone 7 (First Hill) has few issues.

- RPZ permits are based on people not buildings.
- Current RPZ guest pass is portable.
- SDOT staff noted the following regarding guest passes in other cities:
 - Chicago – guest tickets
 - Denver – no guest tickets
 - Madrid – guests have time limit
- Seattle University evening degree programs start at 6:00PM. As a result students in the evening programs are able to park in the zone.
- SDOT staff reported most zones end at 6:00PM, but not all.
- SDOT staff confirmed most RPZ zones are two hours. The time limits in a RPZ zone (2 hours versus 4 hours) are determined by what the neighborhood petitions for from the start. It is not too difficult to change – no council approval needed. Need to consider parking enforcement costs.
- The general consensus is that neighborhoods would not be happy if institutions no longer were required to pay for their RPZ permits.
- SDOT staff reported staff are using the sounding board process, community meetings, email update, a web site, and survey to determine zone creation process/what works/opportunities.
- SDOT staff noted the RPZ program is accounted for in a ‘cost center’; not general fund. For some time now it has not covered its costs.
- Group Health in Zone 4 (Capitol Hill) doesn’t pay for all of the permits in the zone.
- As RPZs grow, employees park further away. This is a safety concern for employees.
- One idea is to require vehicle registration in WA. This would in particular impact out of state students, who bring a car with them to school. Military personnel would be exempt.
- Construction impacts negatively affect parking availability in RPZ zones.
- One hour parking requested near Harborview in Zone 7 (First Hill).
- Need to better coordinate different types of parking requirements (RPZ/pay/zone).

- Some of the agreements with institutions were drafted years ago. Look at opportunities as new plans are drafted/modified. Coordinate with developers, hours of parking counts. Keep specific to RPZ's only.
- Institutions updating master plans need to work with community advisory committees.

Action Items

- SDOT staff to provide meeting notes to sounding board members for their review and finalization.
- SDOT staff to set-up next sounding board meeting for the end of June.